



PALM BEACH STATE
COLLEGE

COLLEGE RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011 — **MAY 2012**

JOAN YOUNG, EDITOR

Message from the President...

Shelley Hill

Greetings! Spring has sprung with all the glory and heat that the season brings. It has been an exceptionally warm winter, if we ever had one. Those skeptics who don't believe in global warming, just ask those who live in Washington, D.C., New York, and even Montana. If you have the opportunity to escape the heat this summer, know that we are happy for you and will miss you until you return for the fall.

The committee has been very busy with forging ahead with ideas and suggestions posed to our College Administrators. We have stepped on a few toes but know that it has been quite innocently, always thinking of our organization. By our May meeting we should have some of our requests in place, i.e., ID badges, data base of our members retained and updated by Nancy Buhl, and PBSC Retirees Association application distributed by the Human Resources Department to those College employees who retire. The membership application form has been updated and needs to be completed by all members for the 2012-2013 year. Please do not forget to add your email address on the application. In the future, it will only need to be completed if your information changes.

Our May meeting will be on **May 4, 2012 beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the faculty dining room on the Lake Worth Campus.** We will have two short speakers, one from the Southeast Florida Alzheimer's Association and another speaker from VSA Florida, Palm Beach County. It is believed you will come away with a great deal of information and interest in these organizations that serve all of Palm Beach County and elsewhere. Lunch will be available.

Our Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held December 7, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. again at the gracious Atlantis Country Club. We are still working on the details. If any of you have suggestions, we would appreciate hearing from you.

We look forward to seeing you on May 4, 2012!



More holiday photos inside and on the back page.



RETIREEES' HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

The luncheon gathering at the Atlantis Country Club on December 9 brought holiday cheer to about 40 members of the Palm Beach State College Retirees Association as they got an early start on the season in festive and colorful surroundings.

Everyone arrived garbed in the colors and symbols of the season. A beautifully decorated spruce and a bowl of wassail greeted them at the entrance. Each table held a brilliant cylinder festooned with colorful bulbs and holiday greens as a centerpiece (which later went home with one of the table's occupants) and was strewn with appropriate Christmas and Hanukkah candies and toys. Many of the decorations were the work of Bobbi Marsh.

After a period of mixing and socializing, during which Ernest Parbhoo's wife, Susan, played Christmas music on the piano, everyone was served a delicious lunch. Ruth Graham relieved Susan at the piano during

the meal. Dr. Gallon joined us for lunch. He gave us an update on progress for the new campus and explained the proposal to change the funding formula for the state colleges.

Then came the fun of a gift exchange. "Oohs" and "Aahs" and "Oh, my!" were heard as presents were unwrapped and revealed. As the saying goes, "A good time was had by all!"

We owe thanks to our President, Shelley Hill, and the committee who planned and assisted with this event, chaired by Bobbi Marsh: Nancy Buhl, Lore Conti, Donna DiSesa, Honey Duncan, Helen Franke, Joal Solaas, Joan Young.

SPECIAL THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE GOLD COAST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION FOR THE USE OF THE BABY GRAND PIANO AT THE ATLANTIS COUNTRY CLUB HOLIDAY LUNCHEON.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Write to them! They'd love to hear from you!

And send us your news!

Here's more about **Nancy Buhl's** pre-Christmas auto trip with her daughter, son-in-law, and two teenage grandsons. In Pigeon Forge, TN, they attended Dolly Parton's Holiday Stampede dinner where they ate the entire meal without utensils. The boys rode down a hill in a spinning and rolling 12-foot plastic ball that contained some warm water—"a fun thing to watch someone else do," according to Nancy. Besides serving as the CRA's Vice President, Nancy is an officer of the PBSC Chapter of the AFC and of the statewide AFC Retirees Commission.

William Childers writes that he is enjoying retirement in the Rockies. (He lives in Colorado.)



Banna's Views on Aging

Banna Ghiotto, at 95 probably our oldest member, speaks to us:

Old Age, I decided, is a gift!

I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! Sometimes I despair over my body, the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging butt. And often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror, but I don't agonize over those things for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life and my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become more kind to myself and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend.

I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, that looks so avant-garde on my patio. I am entitled to a treat, to be messy, and to be extravagant.

Recently retired Professor of Fine Arts **Alessandra Gieffers** gave a lecture on Michelangelo entitled "Veni, Vidi, Vici: A Florentine Conquers Rome" to Il Circolo in West Palm Beach early in March. Alessandra writes that she is considering creating a DVD of her lecture: "the PowerPoint presentation was very exciting. I was able to [show] . . . individual components of the ceiling in the Sistine Chapel . . . colors were vibrant . . ."

Congrats are in order for **Bill Graham**, who retired on January 31 and moved to Tallahassee to assume his new position as Executive Director of the Labor Relations Service of the Florida School Boards Association. His wife, our President Shelley Hill, has joined him, but will maintain her position with us.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon—before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 A.M. and sleep until noon?

I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60's and 70's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love . . . I will.

I will walk the beach in a swimsuit that is stretched over a bulging body, and I will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the "jet set." They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what gives us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

Bill's father, **Paul Graham**, writes that the car he and a friend were riding in was destroyed in a rear-end collision. Both of them suffered damage to their ribs. His wife, **Ruth**, writes that they spent last summer and fall in Kentucky, where she "played most Sundays at small churches in Taylor County and several neighboring counties." They had "terrible weather . . . 15 days with the temperature between 97 and 100 . . . and were teased about having to go to Florida to get some relief."

Now for the sad news of the death of **Sue Rathbone's** husband Elbridge, who died on December 17, 2011 after an extended illness. Sue is our organization's liaison with PBSC's College Relations & Marketing section, which designs and prints our newsletter, prints and mails out all of our notices, invitations, etc., and the newsletter, prepares our membership lists, and performs several other services for us. Sue is to be commended for her many years of service. We are all very sorry for her loss.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself any more. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day. (If I feel like it.)

May our friendship never come apart, especially when it's straight from the heart! May you always have a rainbow of smiles on your face and in your heart forever and ever!

The present is a gift you create every moment.



MINUTES OF LUNCH MEETING OF MEMBERS

Faculty Dining Room, Lake Worth Campus - October 21, 2011

Lunch and Socializing. 11:10-11:40 AM

Program. President Shelley Hill introduced Suellen Mann, Executive Director, Palm Beach State College Foundation, and Pat Lord, the Foundation's Director of Major Gifts. They explained that the Foundation is the fund-raising arm of the college and that there are many ways College retirees can assist in this funding. They explained several examples of leaving a legacy by gifting and distributed literature explaining these (attached). Penny Mcisaac, Dean, Student Services, Lake Worth was also introduced. Mcisaac explained how diverse the College's students are in respect to race, age, and other features, e.g., 59.6% minority, 58.7% female, 62.8% part-time, 63% under the age of 24.

President Shelley Hill **called the meeting to order** at 12:15 PM. Twenty-two members and three guests were present. Hill introduced herself and the other officers and welcomed those who were newly retired. She requested a moment of silence in memory of those members who had passed on.

Minutes. Secretary Joan Young distributed minutes of the meeting of May 6, 2011. No corrections or changes were suggested.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting on May 6, 2011, as distributed. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Honey Duncan submitted a report (attached) for the period from May 6, 2011 through October 21, 2011, indicating a balance in the treasury of \$539.74. Duncan announced that the CRA's treasury account has been moved to the Gold Coast Federal Credit Union.

Committee Reports. Hill announced the appointment of committee chairs:

Newsletter—Joan Young: Young thanked those who had sent her news for the last newsletter and requested that all members regularly send Young news and photos of their doings (in writing)—travel, family events, volunteer jobs, hobbies, etc.

Social Activities—Bobbi Marsh and Helen Franke: Marsh reported that the Cards and Games Party in August had been fun for all who participated. She announced that the CRA's Holiday Lunch Party at the Atlantis Country Club would be held on December 9, 2011, and asked for volunteers to help organize and plan it.

Recruitment/Retention—Joanne Kelly: Kelly was absent from the meeting.

Social Welfare—Joal Solaas: Solaas asked that members notify her in the case of sad events, such as serious illness, hospitaliza-

tion, or death, as well as happy events, such as births, weddings, or graduations. She will send an appropriate card from the Retirees Association.

Program—Jan & Joyce Bussell: The Bussells were absent from the meeting. Hill asked that members who have ideas for programs for meetings please contact her for the time being.

Other: Ernest Parbhoo announced that he had gotten a notice from the College's Vice President Becker that retirees are not eligible to use the College's Wellness Center because the College can't cover liability for retirees. Hill said that this is one of the benefits that the CRA is working on obtaining for members.

Hill distributed a bulletin from the Area Agency on Aging about pending legislation. (Copy attached.)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

THESE MINUTES WILL BE SUBJECT TO CORRECTION AND APPROVAL BY VOTE OF THE MEMBERS AT THE MEETING IN MAY.



**PALM BEACH STATE
COLLEGE**



If you have a suggestion for a speaker or program for one of our meetings, please contact:

SHELLEY HILL

(561) 585-4200

shelleybilltoby@bellsouth.net

If you know of a member who is ill or who has died or who has suffered some kind of setback, please contact:

JOAL SOLAAS

(561) 790-0948

PLEASE SEND US NEWS ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING

If you have a change in address or phone number (or if you know the address of a former member who has moved), please contact:

SHELLEY HILL

(561) 585-4200

shelleybilltoby@bellsouth.net

Don't forget e-mail addresses and cell phones!

Send news about yourself or other members to:

JOAN YOUNG

500 DAVIS RD #43

PALM SPRINGS, FL 33461

HOME: (561) 964-3238

CELL: (561) 379-8798

gramdocj@aol.com

If you can help us find new members (other retirees from the College), please contact:

JOANNE KELLY

(561) 586-2575

If you have a suggestion for a social event, please contact:

BOBBI MARSH

(561) 586-6264

bobbimarsh@gmail.com



DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012

MEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING
11:30 AM, Faculty Dining Room
Lake Worth Campus

DECEMBER 7, 2012

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON PARTY
11:30 AM, Atlantis Country Club

Effective May 2012, annual dues will be \$15.00 each member for all members.

